A review has recently been undertaken in respect of training, marketing, design development welfare schemes.

(c) State-wise funds are not allocated in the handicrafts sector. However, a sum of Rs. 55 crores and Rs. 53 crores have been allocated during the year 1998-999 and 1999-2000 respectively for promotion and development of handicrafts in the country.

Financial Assistance to Destitute Handloom Weavers in Orissa

4111. SHRI RAMCHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) Whether it is a fact that destitute Handloom Weavers and cooperative societies of Handloom weavers are being encouraged in Orissa by giving them margin money, financial loan etc. for stock and marketing; and

(b) if so, what was the provision for the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and amount released to Orissa under the Central plan schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The Scheme of Margin Money for Destitute Weavers was in operation since 1991-92 upto 1996-97, thereafter the Scheme was merged with Project Package Scheme (PPS) from the year 1997-98. No fresh proposal for release of Margin Money was received during 1999-2000 for destitute weavers. During 2000-2001, financial assistance would be extended to release balance amount of earlier sanctioned project in receipt of viable proposals from the State Governments from the common budget head for PPS and other Schemes. So far as marketing assistance is concerned, Rs. 194.80 Lakhs under market Development Assistance and Rs. 20.67 Lakhs for rebate have been released to Government of Orissa towards claims of State Level Handloom Agencies and the Handloom Cooperatvie Societies.

Health Package Scheme for Weavers in Orissa

4112. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that good population of Orissa are engaged in the weaving profession both in organised and unorganised sectors and are suffering from weaving related diseases like T.B. and Asthma etc.;

(b) the extend of assistance or funds spent by Government under Health Package Scheme for weavers;

(c) the details of funds released/allocated for the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(d) the details of action plan to provide such weavers proper drinking water facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) In the un-organised Handloom Sector some weavers do suffer from diseases like T.B, Asthma etc. However, the Government of Orissa has not given any information about the extent of weavers suffering from these diseases. Government of India has spent a sum of Rs. 124.00 lakhs under the Health Package Scheme for handloom weavers from the year 1992-93 to 1999-2000.

(c) and (d) During 1999-2000 budget of Rs. 25.00 lakhs was earmarked to the State Government of Orissa under Health Package Scheme and no amount has been released to them due to non-submission of viable proposals and Utilisation Certificate of earlier releases. Funds would be made available to Government of Orissa upon receipt of viable proposals including those for provision of drinking water to the weavers.

Fire-Proof Houses for Handloom Weavers in Orissa

4113. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing Central plan scheme to provide fireproof workshed houses and dewelling houses-cum-worksheds for handloom weavers and details of funds allocated to each State during the last two years;

(b) whether Government are aware that due to Cyclone and Super Cyclone in October, 1999 workshed and houses of the weavers have been damaged in Orissa;

(c) the proposal received or action taken by the Central Government to enhance and release adequate funds for Orissa; and

(d) the details of allocation and release of funds made for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.